

CONVEYANCE ACT 6998

I write to express my opposition to the proposed transfers of state properties and conservation lands including parts of Silver Sands State Park (Section 3) in Milford, Centennial Forest (Section 8), and two parcels for mining in Killingly/Plainfield and Canterbury/Brooklyn (Sections 14,15).

To allow transfers of state conservation lands contradicts the very purpose these lands were protected for in the first place.

I urge that all transfers not be allowed without thorough evaluation and review of their environmental and ecological value, and that alternatives to proposed transfers be diligently explored and encouraged.

In particular, Silver Sands State Park is an ecologically significant site as it provides critical habitats for many avian species, some of which are state-listed as endangered and threatened.

Its marsh serves as an important storm buffer, absorbing and dissipating the energy of tidal surges, reducing inland flooding. The dunes also serve a similar purpose by acting as a barrier against winds and tides.

It is one of the few state-protected coastal lands along the very populated and congested CT shoreline, and the only one in all of New Haven County. Thus, it's of great value and importance as an open space and recreational area that provides public access to coastal beaches and waters, especially for Milford and area residents.

Open spaces are essential for public and environmental well-being, serve as habitats for wildlife, and contribute to economic vitality, all of which CT is in sore need of. They need to be protected and not nibbled away in bits and pieces for questionable "land transfers".

Additionally, I am equally shocked and appalled by not just the proposals, but also by the extremely short period for public notification of these proposals coming only days before their Public Hearing. Such actions certainly do not encourage public trust in state leaders and lawmakers, and leads to questions of transparency and ethics in our law-making and management processes.

I urge you to deny these proposals.

Respectfully,
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15 March, 2015